

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

A method for operating a data network, which includes at least one transmission link, defined by a transmitter and a receiver, wherein in test mode the actual level reserve in the direction of the sensitivity limit, thus between the actual transmitting power of the transmitter and the actual sensitivity limit of the receiver, is determined for at least one transmission link. To better utilize the transmitting capacity of the data network, in test mode, the actual level reserve in the direction of the overload limit, thus between the actual transmitting power of the transmitter and the actual overload limit of the receiver, is also determined for the at least one transmission link.